
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 859 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY V. BROWN, BISHOP, READSHAW, BROWNLEE, BIZZARRO,
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DiGIROLAMO, KINSEY, NEILSON, PARKER, DONATUCCI, McNEILL, MURT
AND COX, MAY 19, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MAY 19, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the months of June, July and August 2014 as "Summer
2 Reading Games 2014" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Libraries throughout this Commonwealth contribute to
4 the intellectual growth of children and teens during the summer
5 through reading programs. According to the American Library
6 Association, summer reading programs began in the 1890s as a way
7 to encourage school children, particularly those in urban areas
8 who were not needed for farm work, to read during summer
9 vacation, use the library and develop a habit of reading; and

10 WHEREAS, Summer reading programs attract children and teens
11 to libraries where they can participate in reading and cultural
12 activities. Children and teens benefit from summer programs that
13 combine elements of youth development principles with academic
14 enrichment; and

15 WHEREAS, Visiting local libraries provides children with
16 access to unlimited amounts of reading materials; and

1 WHEREAS, Studies done by researchers at Johns Hopkins
2 University in Baltimore show that disadvantaged youth fall
3 significantly behind other students because of a lack of access
4 to reading materials and a loss of encouragement in the home and
5 elsewhere to participate in any reading. Such a drop off of
6 reading outside of the school year results in achievement gaps
7 not only in school, but also later in life. Communities that
8 offer summer reading encourage youth to develop reading as a
9 lifelong habit, draw in reluctant readers through activities,
10 help ensure children, particularly those in disadvantaged homes,
11 to read over the summer to maintain and increase reading skills
12 and generate interest in free public libraries and the services
13 they offer; and

14 WHEREAS, Schools and public librarians throughout this
15 Commonwealth and the nation have cooperatively produced summer
16 reading lists to enhance both learning and recreation. Library
17 officials in Pennsylvania have worked with their counterparts
18 from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa and
19 the Mariana Islands through the Collaborative Summer Library
20 Program (CSLP) to provide high-quality summer reading program
21 materials for children at the lowest cost possible for their
22 public libraries. The CSLP annually establishes themes for
23 summer reading. This year's general theme is "Science" and the
24 summer reading slogans are: "Fizz, Boom, Read!" for children,
25 "Spark a Reaction" for teens and "Literary Elements" for adults;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, Support of summer reading programs give all library
28 users an opportunity to become lifelong readers and learners by
29 visiting the library frequently. In fact, the Johns Hopkins
30 University and other studies have shown that those who increase

1 their reading have greater success in school and in the job
2 market, while those who have difficulty with reading may have a
3 greater risk of failing in the job field and turning to crime;
4 therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
6 months of June, July and August 2014 as "Summer Reading Games
7 2014" in Pennsylvania to encourage all children and teens in
8 this Commonwealth to participate in all summer library reading
9 programs and to compete in games and other competitions
10 established by the libraries and other groups to increase summer
11 reading; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize all
13 libraries in Pennsylvania for the summer reading programs that
14 they offer and urge all State lawmakers, parents and community
15 leaders to assist, fully support and otherwise get involved in
16 such programs to promote lifelong reading at home and elsewhere
17 by children, youths and adults.